

GOVERNOR'S TEACHER CABINET MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 23, 2013-1:00 P.M.

PATRICK HENRY BUILDING-WEST READING ROOM

Members Present:

Secretary of Laura Fornash
Delegate Algie Howell
Julia Blanchard
Cathy Collier
Lauren Murray
Jennifer Bury
Sally Ann Smith
Tracey Zaval
Catey Moretz
Ellaine Cabellon
Paige Tucker
Stephen Schwartz
Betsy Hall
Tom Coen
Thomas Foster
Artice Appling
Connie Plum
James Popek
Lisa Williams
Gary Castro
Karen Cross
Marion Broglie
Trish Apicella
Kathy Galford

Others Present:

Deputy Secretary Javaid Siddiqi
Special Assistant Ashley Myers
Christopher Benos
Chris Whyte, Vectre Corporation

Agency Liaisons Present:

Patty Pitts

Members Absent:

Alonzo Batson

I. Welcome and call to order

Governor's Teacher Cabinet Chair Julia Blanchard welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 1:07 pm.

II. Expert group breakout to further discuss recommendations

Chair Julia Blanchard and Vice Chair Cathy Collier gave direction on breaking out into 5 expert groups to discuss the recommendations made at previous meetings. Expert groups were also asked to read the supplemental readings provided and noted below:

Professional Development Opportunities Expert Group

- Center for Excellence in Teaching PR.doc

Increasing Parent and Community Involvement Expert Group

- CISVA Replication Update 10-9-13.doc

Role of K-12 in the Higher Ed/Workforce Pipeline Expert Group

- Higher Ed_Workforce Pipeline Rec.doc

- Youth Development Legislation
- High School to Work Partnerships Legislation

Decreasing Administrative Burdens/Mandates Expert Group

- Description of SOL testing programs 10_2013.doc

Closing the Achievement Gap and Assisting Disadvantaged Students Expert Group

- Reading is Fundamental-updated.pdf

III. Presentation of expert group proposed recommendations

All 5 expert groups presented their proposed recommendations to the Cabinet.

IV. Feedback

Cabinet members noted their questions and comments as it relates to each of the 10 recommendations.

V. Reconvening of expert groups

Expert groups reconvened to address the questions and comments by the Cabinet before presenting again to the whole Cabinet.

List of Proposed Recommendations:

1. Reduce the role of criterion-referenced assessments by limiting the SOL tests to only those required by the federal government under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB).
2. Year-round school for Pre-K through 12 for schools that are at risk and in danger of failing based on accreditation, Title I, and free-reduced lunch numbers. School divisions will have the choice of year round or extended day with the suggestion of 5 weeks off at summer/ 2 weeks off in fall/ 3 weeks off during holidays/2 weeks off in spring.
3. Pre-K participation for school divisions based on accreditation, Title I, free-reduced lunch. School divisions can have flexibility with classroom locations in compliance with separation of church and state. Full-day program with qualified Pre-K teachers. Funding would come from marketing with public radio in the form of outreach or possibly telethon.
4. With such funds as may be appropriated for such purpose, local school boards shall develop a more comprehensive Career and Technical Education Center that is more readily accessible to all students, particularly those at risk. Admission shall be based on multiple criteria such as teacher/principal recommendation, employer recommendation, etc. – not only on academic performance. (Enhance big company and community involvement for collaboration and funding.)
5. Clearer definition of “student growth” as required by Standard 7 with the goal of decreasing administrative burdens and increasing instructional time and student learning. Teachers, at their discretion, shall have the ability to select how they measure student growth.

6. Expand *Communities in Schools* and amend the criteria from “greatest risk of dropping out” to a formula including attendance, socioeconomic factors, free-reduced lunch, special education, and minority groups.
7. Incentives for increasing the engagement of parents, businesses, and communities including: reduction in tuition; tax incentives for business and parents (growth based) ; time off (swap), paid by business (perhaps part of tax incentive), Virginia Career Day.
8. Establish more *Centers for Teaching Excellence* strategic sites throughout Virginia. There should be a singular focus derived by teacher demand (survey); taught by teachers, experts, and college professors who are required to participate by the state as a part of their faculty professionalism. Space should be provided by state institutions with incentives given to colleges.
9. Statewide Professional Development Symposia entitled “All Teachers” which would be held in all 8 regions during the summer; have a singular focus each year that is broad enough for inter-disciplinary interest; offer renewal points for attendees and instructors.
10. Board of Education shall incorporate life skills / 21st Century skills into math, science, English, social sciences, and other subject areas as may be appropriate in grades Pre-K through 12.

VI. Preliminary voting on recommendations

Of the list above, following discussion, the Cabinet voted on the recommendations as presented. The Cabinet members’ preliminary voting reflects their prioritization of the following 5 proposed recommendations:

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VII. Break

VIII. Discussion of proposed recommendations

Dr. Javaid Siddiqi, Deputy Secretary of Education, discussed the parameters and process for finalizing the report. The Cabinet was charged to prioritize recommendations as no more than 3 will be included in the final recommendations. Additionally, recommendations should include both short and long term strategies and should be clearly identified as needing budget or legislative action. Deputy Siddiqi also cited the need for final recommendations included in the final report to be delivered to the Governor to include support such as data to support need or rationale and case studies to support recommended solution(s). Deadline for submission of recommendations and final report are as follows:

- Deadline for final recommendations and final meeting: Wednesday, Nov. 6th at 1:00 pm
- Submission of report to the Governor: Friday, Nov. 15th

IX. Review of minutes from previous meeting and other updates

- A. Minutes from meeting on October 8, 2013 were approved.
- B. The Honorable Laura Fornash, Secretary of Education, offered brief remarks.
- C. The Honorable Algie Howell offered brief remarks.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:38 pm.